



Help America Vote Act

North Dakota's Effort to Ensure Every Vote Counts

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PRESS RELEASE

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THE NEW VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS: How Does it Affect Voters?

North Dakota voters will notice a change at the polls this year. The North Dakota State Legislature passed a new law in 2003 requiring all voters to show identification with a residential address when voting. Though not directly a part of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), this new requirement aids election officials in safeguarding the integrity of the election by ensuring qualified voters are voicing their vote where it matters most, where they live.

Qualified voters in the state of North Dakota must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be 18 years of age
- Live in North Dakota
- Lived in their voting precinct for at least 30 days prior to the election
- Not presently incarcerated for a felony
- Have not had voting privileges revoked through order of a court

Acceptable forms of identification for qualified voters must include a street address. Post office box numbers do not establish residency and cannot be accepted. It is preferred that identification also include a photograph of the person offering to vote, as well as their date of birth, though neither of these are mandatory. Acceptable forms of identification with residential address are a:

- Valid Drivers License
- Valid State Identification Card
- Valid Federally Issued Identification Card: 1) passport, 2) agency identification card
- Valid Tribal Government Issued Identification Card
- Valid Student Identification Card
- Valid United States Military Identification Card
- Utility bill dated 30 days prior to Election day with name and residential address
- Change of address verification letter from the US postal Service

(more)

“Eligible voters without identification will not be denied their right to vote and have two available options,” explains Secretary of State Al Jaeger “If an election poll worker knows that the voter is a qualified elector of the precinct, they can vouch for that person to vote. Or a person without identification can fill out a Voter’s Affidavit, under oath, certifying their identity and right to vote in that precinct.”

How Do I Obtain ID?

If you do not have any of the identification options listed above, but would like to obtain identification prior to the election, try the option below:

Any North Dakota resident can obtain a non-driver photo identification card from any automated driver license site. For more information contact your local motor vehicle department or the Drivers License and Traffic Safety Division of the State Department of Transportation at 701-328-2600.

A fee of \$8 and proof of your current name and date of birth is required. A birth certificate or court order containing your legal name and date of birth with a court issued seal are considered acceptable to obtain a photo identification card.

Can I Vote Absentee?

In North Dakota, you do not have to have a reason to vote absentee. Absentee voters fulfill the new identification requirement by completing a Voter’s Affidavit provided with the absentee ballot. Voters who wish to vote prior to Election Day must request an absentee ballot. Absentee voting applications can be obtained from your county auditor or are available for download from the Secretary of State’s web site at www.state.nd.us/sec/electvote. Auditors must receive absentee applications in a timely manner to allow the applicant to receive, complete and return the ballot before Election Day.

For more information, please contact your county auditor or the Secretary of State’s Office Elections Division at 800-352-0867, or TTY 701-328-2001.